

I claim:

1           Claim 1 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains between the times of planting and  
2 emergence from destruction or compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living  
3 organisms, the method consisting of contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous  
4 formulation containing only capsicum as the active ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and  
5 grains, and protecting the germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise by  
6 insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1           Claim 2 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2 includes coating the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 3 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2 includes soaking the crop seeds and grains in the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 4 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2 includes spraying the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 5 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2 includes forming the aqueous formulation into a thickened paste and applying the paste as a coating  
3 to the seeds and grains.

1           Claim 6 The method of claim 5 in which a sprayer is used in the step of applying the paste  
2 as a coating to the seeds and grains.

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1                   Claim 7 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2 includes vaporizing the aqueous formulation prior to contacting the crop seeds and grains therewith.

1                   Claim 8 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by boiling the aqueous  
2 solution.

1                   Claim 9 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by aerosolizing the aqueous  
2 solution.

1                   Claim 10 The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of drying the seeds and grains  
2 following contact with the aqueous formulation.

1                   Claim 11 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains utilizes  
2 circulating hot air.

1                   Claim 12 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains comprises  
2 placing the seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

1                   Claim 13 The method of claim 12, further comprising using a conveyor belt for placing the  
2 seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

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1           Claim 14 A method for protecting germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or  
2           compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of  
3           contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the  
4           active ingredient prior to planting, and protecting the seedlings from destruction or compromise by  
5           insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1           Claim 15 The method of Claim 14, wherein the germinating crop seeds are protected  
2           between the time of germination to the seedling stage.

1           Claim 16 The method of Claim 14, further comprising the following step:  
2           Treating the seedlings with a conventional plant treatment.

1           Claim 17 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise  
2           by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of coating the  
3           crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the active  
4           ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and grains.

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